



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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**STRETCHERS YOUTH ORG**

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# About SYO

Stretchers Youth Organization is a membership, Youth led community based organization that was founded in 2011 with the aim of raising dialogue through advocacy, community mobilization, capacity building, artistic expression and service linkage on reproductive health, human rights, good governance and skills development among women and young people at the coastal counties of Kenya.

Stretchers Youth Organization focuses on the needs and potential of the largest young generation in history. We are committed to creating demand for and access to sexual reproductive health information, promoting human rights , democracy and good governance through services and linkages to adolescents and young people.

We achieve this by engaging in advocacy, capacity development, linkages to sexual reproductive health and services, social media campaigns, peer to peer led activities, which makes sure the adolescents and young people of today are empowered to lead healthy and self-determined lives.



Mombasa County Executive Committee Member-Health Miss. Hazel Koitaba receiving a policy memorandum from organization Programs Manager



*One of the adolescent's going through national guidelines for provision of AYFS for her first time during consultative forum conducted by our champions*



## OUR STRATEGY



Policy advocacy and working with partners, the Kenya national and County governments



Delivery of innovative programmes to increase access to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities



Strengthening, building and establishments of adolescents and young peoples' network to champion for their issues



Mombasa County Assembly Chair Health committee Hon Kibwana Baya receiving policy memorandum from one of our trained champions for adoption



# 2018 OVERVIEW

## Stretchers Youth Organization 2018

### SRHR Highlights

Stretchers Youth organization focuses on SRH with the aim of helping spread awareness among youths regarding their sexual reproductive health to enable them make informed choices and help to curb the spread of STIs and reduce cases of early teenage pregnancy plus promote the use of family planning methods. This would help contribute towards achieving the sustainable Development goal 3 (Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) plus help in addressing some of the health issues facing the adolescents and young people of Mombasa and beyond

*These stories below came out from the projects the organization implemented in 2018 with support from different partners under our Sexual Reproductive health rights program*

“I had a passion in helping community but I didn’t have the power to force me to advocate for the rights of adolescents. But for now I can boldly advocate for the issues in Sexual Reproductive Health Rights. Through AGoTA it has built my confidence, knowledge on SRHR. I feel empowered, encouraged, full of knowledge and bold as an adolescent to speak for the voiceless”

Christine Rashid | AGoTA champion & beneficiary

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“I didn’t know if I could influence budgets and policies affecting me in the county with regards to SRH/HIV programming. I didn’t know that there is a strategy developed in Mombasa County on ASRH/HIV 2018-2023 which speaks on my issues. This girl’s forum has equipped me with that knowledge and information about that strategy. I thank AGoTA project for that lesson.”



**Phoebe Liboi | AGoTA champion & beneficiary**

We conducted the 1st ever Mombasa county symposium which targeted adolescents and young people in 2018. The symposium reached to over 450 AYP with SRH skills and knowledge on how to prevent early teenage pregnancies among the county. The adolescents and young people came out with 3 key issues which were submitted to chair of health committee and county executive committee member health. The outcome of the action points submission led to the development of the 1st ever AYP strategy 2018-2023.



# Sexual Reproductive Health Program Major Outcome in 2018

Total number of  
adolescent and young  
people we reached under  
SRHR program in 2018

5,932



5147



785

We provided adolescents and young girls with 3,696 sanitary towels, 1,360 underpants and 566 IEC materials with sexual reproductive health information.



419 people  
tested for  
HIV



2,144  
male condoms  
distributed

As a result of successful implementation of AGoTA project and conducting the first ever Adolescent and Young People symposium in Mombasa, the trained champions advocated for establishment of new youth friendly center in Changamwe sub county which led to initiating Chaani Youth friendly center by county government of Mombasa. Three of the champions were elected by other young people to manage and run the center.



Three of our champions sat at the committee that developed and reviewed the development of Adolescents and Young people strategy 2018-2023 which will address the SRH needs of adolescents in Mombasa county. The strategy was launched officially in 2018 waiting for the development of implementation framework.

***The organization is founded on the basis of Article 19 (2) of the constitution of Kenya of Rights and Fundamental freedoms which states that “The purpose of recognizing and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms is to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and to promote social justice and the realization of the potential of all human beings”***

"The project was so successful to us; this is because it has brought another aspect of networking between an institution that focuses on Key populations and the general population. This has brought about positive synergy in working together in advocating for rights of both the general population and key population since most project focuses on one cohort at a time but for SeYoDe it is all inclusive.

We thank Stretchers for the skills and knowledge we gained from this project”

Rainbow Women Youth organization beneficiary



***These stories below came out from the projects the organization implemented in 2018 with support from different partners under our Human rights ,Democracy and good governance program***

“SEYODE project has brought about networking of young human rights organizations and strengthening the environment where they operate by bringing organizations from all the 6 sub counties. This is one of the strengths when it comes to advocating for issues regarding human rights in Mombasa county. The greatest of it all is being part of the formed SeYoDe network.”

KISHOKA Youth Organization beneficiary

“I-VIP has made me realize that I should participate in all public hearings because I now know better that it's my responsibility so as to stop complaining and blame games when the county government doesn't fulfill its duties. It has built my capacity to address policy/decision makers comfortably with issues affecting youths. I feel empowered thanks to Stretchers Youth Organization.”

Zipporah Njoki- I-VIP beneficiary



# Human Rights ,Democracy and Good Governance Program Major Outcome in 2018



Through our projects we successfully formed Mombasa county young HRD network that is more united and committed to working together. The network developed its own profile with clear leadership structure and network meetings. It received recognition in the community which led to its inclusion in the bigger CSOs coast region reference working group. The network had an exchange program with members of different justice centers network from Nairobi County. As a network we had one press release asking government to create safe space for young HRD.

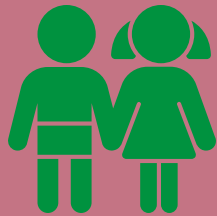
We were able to initiate a community paralegal program, under this program we are working with 30 trained community paralegal that provide legal aid services to community members at the police office, courts and at the community setting. Within the organization we have legal aid desk that is open for community members who seek for any legal aid services. This has led to increased access to justice in the Community and well-structured working relationship between the local administration and community paralegals



We trained and empowered 12 youth organizations in Mombasa County, on county development and planning processes. This resulted to the groups actively participating in county development plans, budget making process and engaging key policy makers in the county through submitting of memorandums.



# SYO Resource center



1032

The total number of adolescents and young people served in our resource center

The adolescents and young people were served with information and services not limited to; trainings, condom provision, counseling services, menstrual hygiene information

12%

15-19 yrs of adolescents and young people served in the resource center

52%

20-24 yrs of adolescents and young people served in the resource center

36%

25+ yrs of youths and women served in the resource center



406  
Served



626  
Served

## Visibility International

We took part in 4 international conferences and platforms where we represented the organization and other young people in Kenya and across the region;

The 1st platform took place in Norway where one of our young person trained other young people from over 25 nationalities on how to use theater as a tool of sustainable development.

The 2nd platform took place in Brussels-Belgium where one of our young person participated by submitting advocacy messages with other young people from other nations to European Union parliament.

The 3rd platform was Beyond Extremism congress which took place in Kampala Uganda. This was a an opportunity for Media and youth organization work together in countering violent extremism within east and central Africa.

The 4th platform was a conference in Kigali-Rwanda where one of our young person presented an abstract on best practices on meaningful engagement of adolescents and young people on advocacy particularly on matters family planning.

## National

We took part in 4 platforms where we represented the organization and other young people in Kenya;

The 1st platform was a conference in Eldoret where our young person presented an abstract on meaningful engagement of adolescents and young people on policy and budget advocacy processes.

The 2nd platform was a conference in Nairobi county where our young person presented an abstract on how adolescents and young people can influence progressive policies and budgets particularly HIV programming.

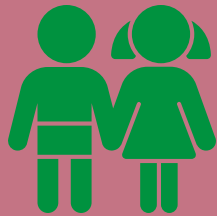
The 3rd platform was a conference in Nairobi county where our young person presented an abstract on menstrual hygiene management.

The 4th platform was a conference in Nairobi county where our young person discussed on the role of social media in countering violent extremism in east Africa.

## Our partners



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## Our partners



# key lessons learnt and observations made in 2018

Most of the time, young people are criticized for not getting involved in mainstream activities at the county and national government, the criticism are made without understanding the factor behind their situation, often lack of knowledge contributes to action taken by young people. Therefore There is need to continuous build capacities of youth and youth organizations on county development planning processes for them to meaningfully engage decision makers on policies and budgets issues.

Our experience working with both state and non state partners shows that equipping the young people with knowledge enable them make informed choices.

Over 2018 working with youths and women at the local community under different projects there was a general feeling that where there is participation in formulating policies, locals would have voice in the decision that affect their lives. The decisions reached would be inclusive and there would be positive change in the community.

Through network formation, it was evident that coming together can help in shaping the current human right environment in Kenya in making government bodies accountable and act accordingly.

Meaningful engagement of adolescent and young people in programming and policy involvement is essential in designing effective policies that reflect their reproductive health needs.It's evident that adolescent girls and young women face a number of sexual reproductive health challenges in Mombasa County, which can be solved by them.



## **2018 Challenges faced !**

- 1.**Most of our programs targets adolescents and young people whom majority of them are in school. Accessing them in school has been a bit technical due to tight school rules posed by the Government.
- 2.**Due to limited resources and funding some of the planned initiatives and activities that we had for 2018 were never carried out effectively.

## **Conclusion**

As an organization we would love to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for both their technical and financial support throughout 2018 . We also wish to thank all the young people that we worked with for their commitment and participation in our programs. We also wish to thank all the staff for their support throughout 2018 for making us create impact in our community.

## OUR PLANS

Over the next year, we will continue to work in the communities where Stretchers Youth Organization currently has a presence of adolescents and young people networks and youth organizations that we work with to deepen our impact and make sure more and more adolescents and young people can access sexual reproductive health and rights

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US



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